

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Columbia



United States of America
v.
SHAWN BRADLEY WITZEMANN
DOB: XXXXXX

21 MJ 446
Case: 1:21-mj-00348
Assigned To : Meriweather, Robin M.
Assign. Date : 4/1/2021
Description: COMPLAINT W/ ARREST WARRANT

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of January 6, 2021 in the county of in the
in the District of Columbia, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

- 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) - Knowingly Entering or Remaining in any Restricted Building or Grounds Without Lawful Authority,
18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2) - Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds,
40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) - Violent Entry and Disorderly Conduct on Capitol Grounds,
40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G) - Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in a Capitol Building.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached statement of facts.

Continued on the attached sheet.



Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone.

Date: 4/1/2021

2021.04.01 15:25:21 -04'00'

Judge's signature

City and state: Washington, D.C.

Robin M. Meriweather, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Your affiant is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and I am currently assigned to the Albuquerque, New Mexico Office. Currently, I am tasked with investigating criminal activity in and around the U.S. Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021. As a Special Agent, I am authorized by law or by a Government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of violations of Federal criminal laws.

The U.S. Capitol is secured 24 hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by U.S. Capitol Police. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the U.S. Capitol was also closed to members of the public.

On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the U.S. Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the United States Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on November 3, 2020. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Mike Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the U.S. Capitol Police attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, shortly after 2:00 p.m., individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of the U.S. Capitol Police, as others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts.

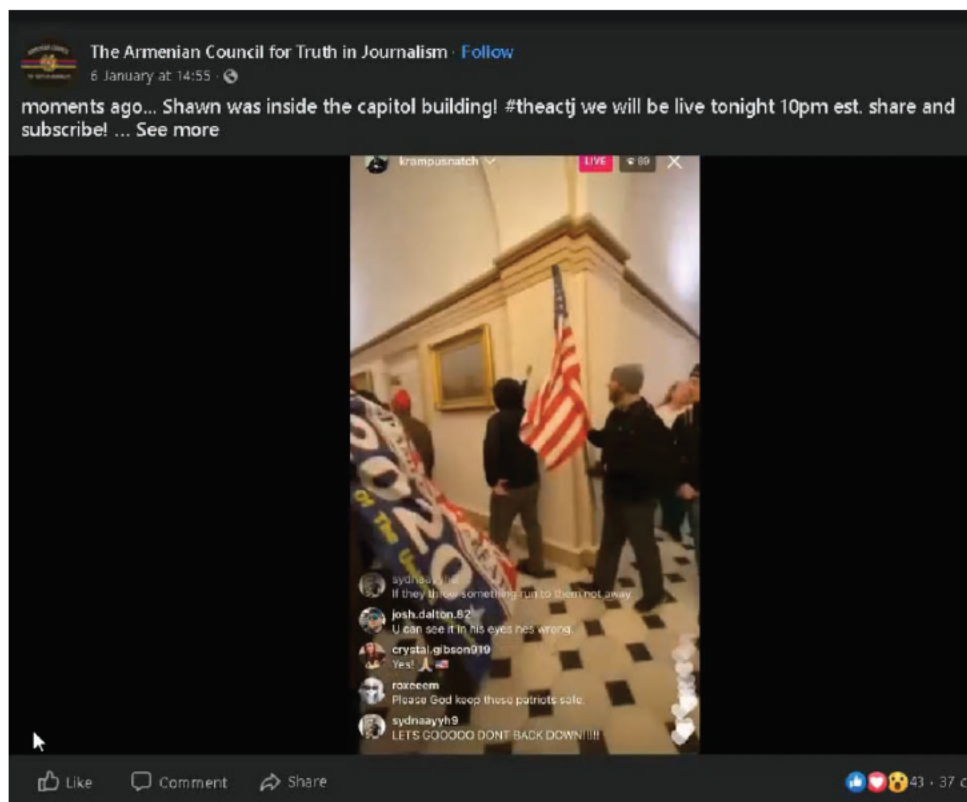
Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m., members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, the joint session of the United States Congress was effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the sessions resumed.

During national news coverage of the aforementioned events, video footage which appeared to be captured on mobile devices of persons present on the scene depicted evidence of

violations of local and federal law, including scores of individuals inside the U.S. Capitol building without authority to be there.

*Evidence Linking SHAWN WITZEMANN to Assault on the U.S. Capitol*

On or about January 15, 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) received a tip in the form of a link to a Facebook page that contained a video that was taken on January 6, 2021 from inside the Capitol building. The video was posted to the Facebook page of The Armenian Council for Truth in Journalism by an Instagram user with the username “@krampusnatch.” The caption for the video read, in part, “moments ago... Shawn was inside the capitol building!” Through open source investigation, the FBI was able to determine that SHAWN BRADLEY WITZEMANN (“WITZEMANN”) was the registered Instagram user of “@krampusnatch.” A screenshot of the video uploaded to Facebook is shown below.



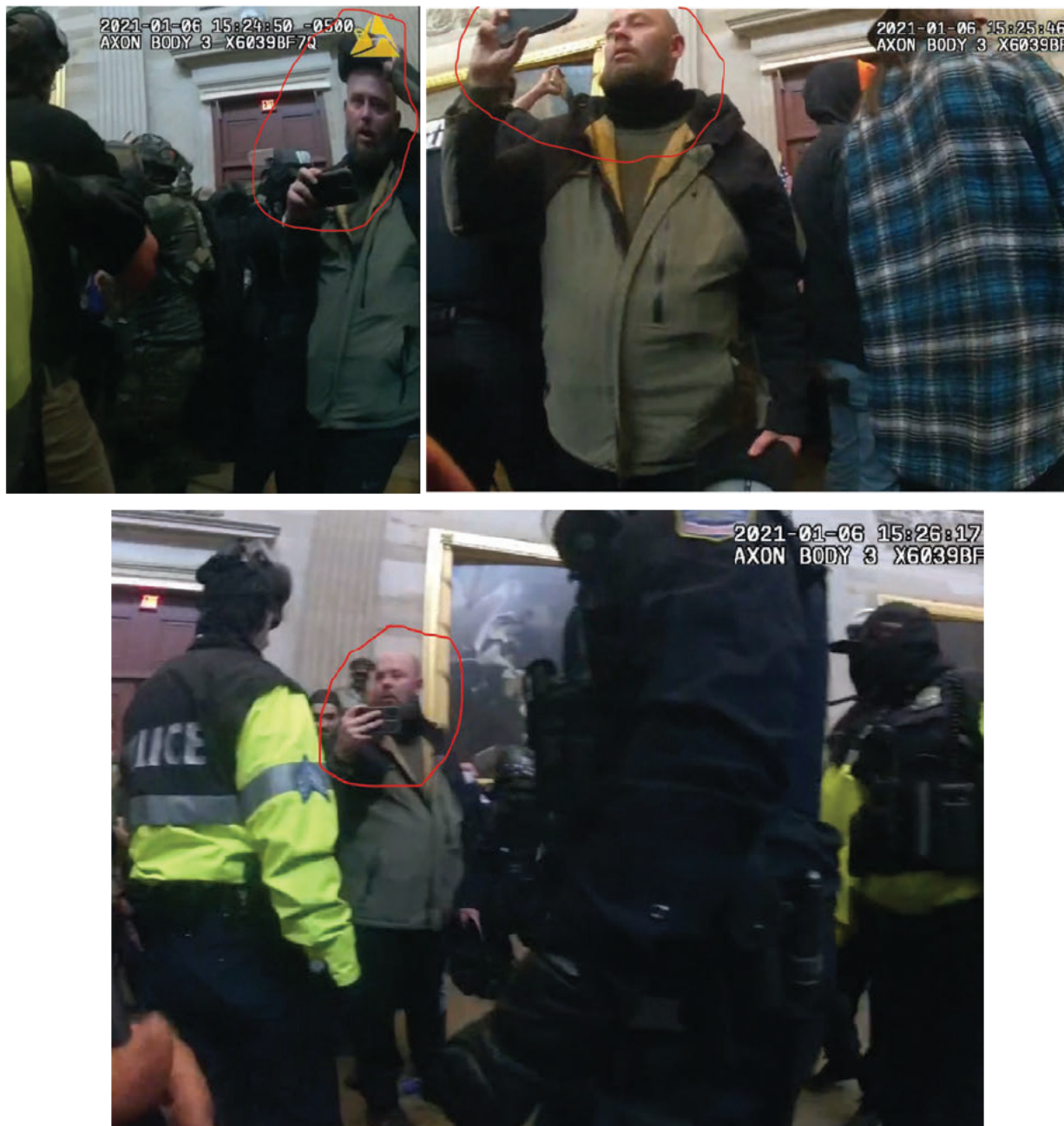
On or about January 15, 2021, WITZEMANN provided a voluntary video recorded statement to your affiant at the FBI office in Farmington, New Mexico. During the interview, WITZEMANN admitted to being inside of the Capitol building on January 6, 2021. WITZEMANN stated that he travels to demonstrations and protests to provide live-streaming video coverage. WITZEMANN also stated that he participates in a podcast every night called “The Armenian Council for Truth in Journalism.” WITZEMANN informed the FBI that he traveled to Washington, D.C. on or about January 4, 2021, and stayed at the Hilton Garden Inn near the U.S. Capitol. On January 6, 2021, WITZEMANN attended the rally for President Trump, and then, at approximately 1:00 p.m., he marched to the Capitol building.

WITZEMANN further stated that he made it to the top of the stairs, on what he described as a “patio” near the front entrance of the Capitol building. He observed Capitol Police walking around, and then attempted to climb up scaffolding to get a better view of the crowd with his cell phone camera. He came down off the scaffolding after a police officer told him to get down. WITZEMANN stated that he then walked to the north entrance of the Capitol building and entered there at approximately 2:30 p.m. WITZEMANN made his way to the rotunda of the Capitol building. While inside the Capitol building, WITZEMANN used his cell phone to make video recordings. WITZEMANN stated that at approximately 4:30 p.m., after being told by a police officer to leave, he left the Capitol building through what he believed were the back doors. On or about January 7, 2021, WITZEMANN rented a vehicle, left Washington, D.C., and drove back home.

On or about January 19, 2021, WITZEMANN sent three video files via e-mail to the FBI. The videos were taken by WITZEMANN from inside the Capitol building on January 6, 2021. The two images below are a sampling of screenshots from the videos provided by WITZEMANN.



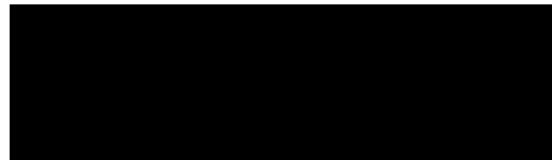
Law enforcement reviewed and collected video provided by the U.S. Capitol Police, which includes footage recorded by police officers' body worn cameras ("BWC"). While reviewing this video footage, your affiant observed an individual who appears to be WITZEMANN using his cell phone to record video from inside the Capitol building from approximately 3:24 p.m. to 3:26 p.m. The following images are a sampling of screenshots obtained from the BWC footage. WITZEMANN is circled in red.



Based on the aforementioned evidence, there is probable cause to believe that WITZEMANN was present inside the U.S. Capitol building during the riot and related offenses that occurred at the U.S. Capitol building, located at 1 First Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20510 on January 6, 2021 and participated in the obstruction of the Congressional proceedings.

Accordingly, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that WITZEMANN violated 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (2), which makes it a crime to (1) knowingly enter or remain in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do so; and (2) knowingly, and with intent to impede or disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions, engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct in, or within such proximity to, any restricted building or grounds when, or so that, such conduct, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions; or attempts or conspires to do so. For purposes of Section 1752 of Title 18, a “restricted building” includes a posted, cordoned off, or otherwise restricted area of a building or grounds where the President or other person protected by the Secret Service, including the Vice President, is or will be temporarily visiting; or any building or grounds so restricted in conjunction with an event designated as a special event of national significance.

Your affiant submits there is also probable cause to believe that WITZEMANN violated 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) and (G), which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly (D) utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct, at any place in the Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress, or the orderly conduct in that building of a hearing before, or any deliberations of, a committee of Congress or either House of Congress; and (G) parade, demonstrate, or picket in any of the Capitol Buildings.



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone, this 1st day of April 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin M. Meriweather', written over a circular official seal.

2021.04.01  
15:26:08 -04'00'

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HON. ROBIN M. MERIWEATHER  
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
District of Columbia

United States of America  
v.  
SHAWN BRADLEY WITZEMANN

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) Case: 1:21-mj-00348  
) Assigned To : Meriweather, Robin M.  
) Assign. Date : 4/1/2021  
) Description: COMPLAINT W/ ARREST WARRANT  
)

Defendant

## ARREST WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

**YOU ARE COMMANDED** to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay  
(name of person to be arrested) SHAWN BRADLEY WITZEMANN,  
who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

- Indictment       Superseding Indictment       Information       Superseding Information       Complaint
- Probation Violation Petition       Supervised Release Violation Petition       Violation Notice       Order of the Court

This offense is briefly described as follows:

- 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) - Knowingly Entering or Remaining in any Restricted Building or Grounds Without Lawful Authority;
- 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2) - Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds;
- 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) - Violent Entry and Disorderly Conduct on Capitol Grounds;
- 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G) - Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in a Capitol Building.

Date: 4/01/2021       2021.04.01  
15:24:02 -04'00'  
Issuing officer's signature

City and state: Washington, D.C.      Robin M. Meriweather, U.S. Magistrate Judge  
Printed name and title

### Return

This warrant was received on (date) \_\_\_\_\_, and the person was arrested on (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
at (city and state) \_\_\_\_\_.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arresting officer's signature  
Printed name and title